

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for holding a compact disk having a central hole, the apparatus comprising: a base portion; at least one inwardly extending radial arm resiliently cantilevered from the base portion; disk-engaging means at the inner end of the said at least one arm for releasably engaging the central hole of the disk and supporting the centre of the disk away from the base portion; the or each arm having first pivot means in the region where it joins the base portion and second pivot means radially inward of the first pivot means; the arrangement being such that depression of the disk-engaging means towards the base portion causes the inner end of the said at least one arm, and at least a central portion of the disk, to be depressed towards the base portion, the arm initially pivoting about the first pivot means and subsequently pivoting about the second pivot means until retention of the disk by the disk-engaging means is released.
2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 in which the second pivot means comprises a projection on the underside of the, or each, radial arm.
3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 in which the projection comprises a ridge extending laterally across the underside of the, or each, radial arm.
4. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 or 3 in which the projection projects from the underside of the, or each, radial arm by a distance of 0.5 - 1.0 mm.
5. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim in which the second pivot means is at least 3 mm, and preferably at least 5 mm, radially inward of the first pivot means.
6. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3 in which the disk-engaging means comprises projections, or lips, for engaging the upper surface of a disk held thereon.

SUB A1

00954535-091801

- AI
- 09954535-091801
- SubA2
7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6 in which the projections, or lips, are arranged so as to overlap the upper surface of a disk held thereon by a distance in the range 0.2 to 0.5 mm.
  8. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim in which the first pivot means of the or each arm is at a distance from the centre of the apparatus of 15 mm or less, and preferably 13 mm or less.
  9. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claims comprising two or three radial arms.
  10. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 9 in which the inner ends of the arms form a button-like member for depression by a user's finger.
  11. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 in which each arm has a portion of the button-like member provided at its inner end, the portions being interconnected.
  12. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim arranged such that further depression of the disk-engaging means following pivoting about the second pivot means causes the base portion to flex so that radially outer portions thereof rise relative to a central area thereof and so assist in lifting the disk away from the disk-engaging means.
  13. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim in which a central area of the base portion is thinner than radially outer portions thereof to enable the centre of the disk to be depressed further.
  14. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim comprising a peripheral support for supporting the periphery of a disk when the disk-engaging means is initially depressed, whereby further depression of the disk-

engaging means, and hence of a central area of the disk, causes the centre of the disk to be flexed towards the base portion.

- A2
15. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim comprising an upstand provided on the base portion for surrounding, or partially surrounding, the periphery of a disk held thereon so as to inhibit access to the edge of the disk by a user's finger until the disk has been released from the disk-engaging means.
  16. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim formed of plastics material.
  17. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16 arranged to enable it to be formed by a one-shot injection moulding process.
  18. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16 integrally formed as part of a container.
  19. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 17 formed as a tray for providing with a cover or insertion into a container.
  20. Apparatus for holding a compact disk having a central hole, the apparatus comprising a base portion; at least two inwardly extending radial arms resiliently cantilevered from the base portion; and disk engaging means provided at the inner end of the arms for releasably engaging the central hole of the disk and supporting the centre of the disk away from the base portion, the arrangement being such that depression of the disk engaging means towards the base portion causes the inner ends of the arms, and at least a central portion of the disk to be depressed towards the base portion until retention of the disk by the disk-engaging means is released, and the base portion to flex such that radially outer portions thereof are raised relative to a central area thereof so the radially outer portions engage the periphery of the disk and assist in lifting the disk away from the disk engaging means.

09954535-091801

SUBA3

- A3
21. Apparatus as claimed in claim 20 in which said flexing of the base portion is enhanced by forming each of radial arms so that it joins the base portion at a pivot point which is arranged such that depression of the arm tends to cause radially outer portions of the base portion to rise rather than just flexing the arm relative to the base portion.
22. Apparatus for holding a compact disk having a central hole, the apparatus comprising: a base portion; at least one inwardly extending radial arm resiliently cantilevered from the base portion; and disk-engaging means at the inner end of the said at least one arm for releasably engaging the central hole of the disk, the arrangement being such that the thickness of the apparatus from the top of the disk-engaging means to the underside of the base portion is 4 mm or less.
23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 mounted within a cover, in which the overall thickness, including the thickness of the cover, is 4 mm or less.
24. Apparatus for holding a compact disk substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 3 to 5 of the accompanying drawings.
- 2

108760 554550